

## Message Text

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62

ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 EB-03 INR-05 CIAE-00

NSCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 OMB-01 /038 W

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R 121215Z AUG 72

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2793

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0713

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, NS

SUBJ: REPORTS OF ALCOA AND REYNOLDS PAYMENTS ABROAD

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUGUST 11, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF SURINAM (A NON-POLITICAL POSITION TO WHICH INCUMBENT IS APPOINTED FOR LIFE) DE MIRANDA TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER ALLEGED ALCOA AND REYNOLDS PAYMENTS ABROAD WOULD FURTHER INVOLVE SURINAM DEPENDS ON INVESTIGATION TO BE CONDUCTED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE, PROGRESS OF WHICH, IF ANY, HE DID NOT KNOW.

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL GAVE FOLLOWING INFO ON LEGAL SITUATION OF ANY SUCH PAYMENTS UNDER SURINAM :

A. ANY LAYMENT TO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR CIVIL SERVANT TO OBTAIN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OR ANY OTHER ADVANTAGE WOULD BE ILLEGAL UNDER SURINAM LAW AND BOTH DONOR AND RECIPIENT WOULD BE LIABLE TO TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT.

B. POLITICAL PARTIES IN THIS COUNTRY RAISE THEIR FUNDS BY FUND DRIVES, BENEFIT DINNERS, INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND COME COMPANY CONTRIBUTIONS. ALL THESE ARE LEGAL AND PROPER UNDER SURINAM LAW. THERE ARE NO RESTRIC-  
TIONS ON SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS AND NO LIMITATIONS ON THEIR ACCEPTANCE OR USE, NOR IS THERE ANY REQUIREMENT THAT THEY

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BE REPORTED BY RECIPIENT. IF DONOR IS A BUSINESS FIRM, THEN CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD APPEAR IN ITS BOOKS WHICH FACT WOULD BE SHOWN TO COMPANY ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS AND TAX AUTHORITIES, BUT KNOWLEDGE OF LATTER MUST BE MAINTAINED AS SECRET AND MAY BE USED, IF AT ALL, ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIONS CONCERNING TAX LIABILITY OF FIRM; I.E., TAX AUTHORITIES CANNOT MAKE INFO AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENT OR ANYONE ELSE FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS, BEING THUS LEGAL AND ACCEPTED, IT APPEARED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL UNLIKELY THAT ANY SURINAM ENTITY WOULD TRY TO HIDE SUCH A CONTRIBUTION IF IT MADE ONE, THERE BEING NO POINT IN DOING SO. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE OPINED, A LARGE COMPANY DOING BUSINESS WITH ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION (HE MENTIONED KERSTENS, LARGE DEPARTMENT STORE, IMPORTER, AND GENERAL BUSINESS FIRM) WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO MAKE A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION AS THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED PARTIALITY AND ITS REPUTATION COULD SUFFER.

C. IF IT BECAME ESTABLISHED THAT AN AMERICAN FIRM DOING BUSINESS IN SURINAM HAD MADE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, THE PUBLIC WOULD REACT ADVERSELY AGAINST THIS, REGARDLESS OF LEGALITY, BECAUSE IT WOULD APPEAR AS OUTSIDE INTER-FERENCE IN WHAT WAS SURINAM'S OWN BUSINESS.  
ZURHELLEN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** EINV, PINT, NS, ALCOA, REYNOLDS  
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